REMARKS

Status of Claims

In the January 24, 2008 Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 1, 4-7 and 9-13 were pending in the application. Claims 1 and 10-13 have been amended herein. Thus, claims 1, 4-7 and 9-13 remain pending for consideration, which is respectfully requested. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, on page 39, lines 15-27 of the Specification. No new matter has been added.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In item 3, on pages 2-5, the Office Action rejected claims 1 and 3-13 (of which claims 3 and 8 have been previously cancelled) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kellstrom, (U.S. 6,088,625) in view of Harrison et al. (U.S. 6,611,725) in further view of Yotsukura (U.S. 6,647,380) in view of Foster et al. (U.S. 5,278,979). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 as amended recites "copying a **newer version** of the assembly data as a new object and assigning thereto the oldest version information of the assembly data **to prevent an approval request for the new object from being made**" (last 3 lines, emphasis added). Applicants submit that the cited art does not describe such a feature.

On page 3, the Office Action relies on the "forward deltas" described in column 1, lines 34-57 of Foster et al. as teaching "copying the assembly data as a new object and assigning thereto the oldest version information of the assembly data" as previously recited by claim 1. Even assuming *arguendo* that Foster et al. describes copying the assembly data as a new object, the "Delta versioning" described in Foster et al., for example, merely relates to a scheme where "the full source copy is **the oldest version** and the deltas represent newer versions" (see column 1, lines 50-56, emphasis added). Merely copying the oldest version, however, does not equate to "copying a **newer version** of the assembly data as a new object and assigning thereto the oldest version information of the assembly data" as recited by claim 1. Moreover, nothing in Foster et al. describes the additional feature of "assigning thereto the oldest version information of the assembly data **to prevent an approval request for the new object from being made**" as recited by claim 1.

Kellstrom is directed to a method and system for transferring assembly data between a computer aided design computer system and a manufacturing computer system.

Harrison is directed to a method for processing a design model generated by a computer-aided design system including accessing model data that includes separately stored data documents detailing construction of the design model from a collection of components.

Yotsukura is directed to a production and inventory control system, comprising first and second business application systems, and a production database for displaying the information for each of the first and second business application systems.

Applicants submit that Kellstrom, Harrison, and Yotsukura, taken alone or combination, fail to cure the deficiencies of Foster et al. described above. Therefore, Applicants submit that the cited art fails to either explicitly or implicitly teach or suggest "copying a newer version of the assembly data as a new object and assigning thereto the oldest version information of the assembly data to prevent an approval request for the new object from being made" as recited by claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the cited art.

Independent claims 10-13 recite "copying a newer version of the assembly data as a new object and assigning thereto the oldest version information of the assembly data to prevent an approval request for the new object from being made," and therefore, patentably distinguish over the cited art.

Dependent claims 5-7 and 9 inherit the patentable recitations of their base claim, and therefore, patentably distinguish over the cited art for at least the reasons discussed above.

In item 4, on pages 5-6, the Office Action rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kellstrom, and Harrison et al. in view of Yotsukura in view of Foster et al. in view of Beppu et al. (U.S. 5,777,877). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that Beppu et al. fails to cure the deficiencies of the cited art described above. Dependent claim 4 inherits the patentable recitations of its base claim, and therefore, patentably distinguishes over the cited art for at least the reasons discussed above.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.
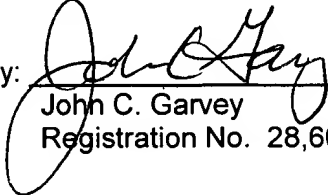
If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: _____6-24-08_____

By: _____

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